THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Memorandum of the Government of Kerala seeking assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was examined in accordance with the scheme laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission. As the entitlement of the State as per the approved items and scales of relief expenditure was within available balances in its Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), no assistance was found admissible from the NCCF. The State Government and the Chief Minister were apprised of the position.

The second instalment of the Central Share of the CRF of Rs.26.475 crores was released in advance. 5000 MTs of Rice was also released free of cost.

Rail Passes for Freedom Fighters of Tripura

* 368. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail passes to the Tripura Freedom Fighters and their spouses are being issued from Lumding, Assam;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Ministry of Railways to consider to issue such passes from the Railway Ticket Counter in TRTC Complex or from the office of N.F. Railway, Gurkhabasti, Agartala; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Freedom Fighter card passes are issued from the personnel branches of Zonal/Divisional Railway Headquarter Offices, on submission of application by the freedom fighters along with the prescribed documents. The processing of the applications from freedom fighters involves proper scrutiny and record keeping, ¡K order to ensure proper accountal of the freedom fighter care passes. Personnel branches of Zonal/Divisional Railway Headquarters offices have been entrusted this job, as they are competent and equipped for the task. The responsibility of issuing

card passes can not be delegated to local areas and PRS countries, since they are not properly equipped for this task. Proper accountal of passes is not possible at PRS level and therefor Railways may lose financially.

In view of the administrative/accountal problems brought out above, it has not been possible to agree to the request of Government of Tripura to provide issue and renewal facility of freedom fighter card passes from local areas and PRS counters. However, the freedom fighters need not come personally for renewal of passes to the Zonal/Division Railway Headquarter Office, as they are permitted to get their passes renewed through their authorised representatives.

Varna paragraphs to be deleted from text book

* 369. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a book on ancient India prescribed for Xlth Standard, the paragraphs relating to Varnas have been ordered to be deleted by CBSE;

(b) if so, the paragraphs deleted by CBSE; and

(c) the reasons for the omission?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The deleted paragraph is enclosed, as statement *(See* below).

(c) Contents of the said^aragraph is considered objectionable and likely to have an adverse impact on impressionable minds of school children.

Statement

The Varna System

Religion influenced the formation of social classes in India in a peculiar way. In other ancient societies the duties and functions of social classes were fixed by law which was largely enforced by the state. But in India Varna laws enjoyed the sanction of both the state and religion. The functions of priests, warriors, peasants and